

# OTHER HALF OF THE SCHOOL POPULATION SHOULD ATTEND

(BY H. S. H.)

THE opening of the public schools of El Paso with an attendance larger than that of last year in spite of the fact that a majority of the exiled families from Mexico have returned to their former homes is a cause for satisfaction for everyone, except, of course, the children themselves, who are having a hard time adjusting themselves to the confinement and restrictions of school after the freedom of vacation spent largely out of doors. The 14 public schools began with an enrollment for the first day of 9,700 or about 100 more than the first day last year, and there is indication that succeeding days will see substantial additions to the enrollment.

But though the increase in attendance at the schools is gratifying, the fact remains that the last school census showed 17,450 children of school age in the city. This means that less than half of those attending public schools are within the ages, eight to 14, fixed by the compulsory school law of Texas as those within which children must attend school a minimum of 80 days. Last year the minimum was 60 days and next year it will be 100. Several hundred are attending private schools, which the law recognizes, but even then the gap between the total enrollment and the figures of the school census is very great.

Perhaps it can be said that if all the children of school age here complied with the law, the schools would be found far too small to accommodate them, but that is the concern of the school board and the taxing public. The concern of the parents and employers is to see that all children within the age get the benefit of their educational opportunity while it is available to them, and if more or larger buildings are needed, they will have to be provided. The law is very definite in its requirements of school attendance; penalties are provided for employers and parents who contribute to the truancy of children. The fine for employers is \$10 and for parents or guardians not to exceed \$25. It is the intention of the school authorities here to check carefully the school census list against the list of those in attendance at the schools, public and private, and go after the remainder.

There should be no need for compulsion, however. Parents or guardians who have been lax regarding the education of their children should realize it is better not to humiliate them if they desire to stay out of school and better to meet any sacrifice necessary to send them to school than to allow them to continue without the instruction which alone will fit them for a successful life in maturity. Unlike some countries which foster ignorance, as a means of keeping their people in subjection, the United States fosters enlightenment, and insists that its citizens shall have the utmost education possible to give them. There are no special cases in which temporary absence of the child of school age from the schools may be justified. The law takes cognizance of them, though such absence requires the consent of the school authorities. For the rest, the school is the place for the child. Wherever in this city his home may be, there is a school conveniently near and he should be in it. Boy or girl, the child's future success, enjoyment and social position are chiefly dependent on the instruction received now.

Seeing that former ambassador von Bernstorff has been awarded the civilian Iron Cross by his emperor, it's strange that William Hale Thompson, "burgomaster of the sixth largest German city in the world," has not been honored similarly.

Maybe Italy's army will reach Vienna in time to assist the Austrian government in making up its mind what to do about the pope's peace offer.

It begins to look as though a good many goulash feeders soon will have to change to spaghetti. As between die and diet, they'll choose the latter.

If the girls keep their knitting needles going as briskly as now, it's going to be a long, hard winter for the manufacturers of knit goods.

## Self Supporting New Mexico

NEW MEXICO, on a war basis, has become almost self supporting as Germany, surpassing as the state's self support may be at first glance, and despite the natural difficulties with which Germany does not have to contend, though, of course, the population to be provided for per square mile in area is very much less and the comparison does not involve anything but food.

New Mexico normally produces about 40 percent of its food products. This year, through the efforts of its farmers and gardeners, urged on and aided by the state committee of defense and other state offices, the production has been doubled. This means New Mexico in 1917 will grow 80 percent of the food required by the people of the state, leaving only 20 percent to be shipped in from other states.

At least 15 percent of Germany's food is also shipped in from outside production sources. It is for that reason, principally, that the United States has clamped down an embargo on shipments of food supplies to European neutrals. Although certain neutral countries in proximity to Germany would be receptive to Germany, it had been found they were shipping to Germany the food they themselves produced, selling it at very high prices, and were feeding themselves by means of imports from the United States. By putting on the embargo, the United States has forced these neutrals to feed themselves with their own products. Naturally they can export little or no food to Germany, for their own requirements are at least as great as their production in respect to most products.

It is because Germany, despite best efforts to make the empire self supporting, is forced to import a considerable quantity of food that the United States and the allies hope to hasten the process by forcing the shutting off of those imports.

However, the skill and energy displayed by Germany in so nearly approaching entire self support has compelled the admiration of the world. Some of the same admiration is due to New Mexico, whose patriotic citizens have succeeded in matching the enemy in food production.

The Germans proclaimed it a great "victory" when the Russians evacuated Riga, but the victory was really won when the minds of the Russians were so contaminated and their patriotism so undermined that they were willing to evacuate or to desert Riga. On reflection, generating in about the proper word for the withdrawal.

The most conspicuous thing about German references to Russia is that the czar, his empress and their train of courtiers are touched lightly as with a kind and loving hand. And that's about enough to convict them of past treason to Russia.

Some of these El Pasoans who are now being drafted with considerable regret, will feel like taking off their hats to the local board a year from now. Quite a few of them are beginning already to feel a pride in the service.

War bread is described as a brown, unpalatable, indigestible, doughy mixture which resembles bread in shape only.

El Pasoans are straining their eyes looking for that seven dollar coal and that 14 ounce loaf for a nickel.

The real food dictator is he who blows into the restaurant with a pocketful of cash.

The cry of "frame up" is the last refuge of a scoundrel, but often it is too true.

Lots of wives who have bussed the household feel "totally dependent" now.

Perching's version is: "Come on over the water, the digging's fine."

## Roundabout Town

### Soda Man Harvests Nickels With Dance Platform Automobilsts Vie With Each Other Breaking Law

BY G. A. MARTIN.

A N energetic soda pop man with a little stand on Alameda avenue at the north entrance to Washington park has constructed a small dance platform outside his stand with red, white and blue

electric lights and has installed a three piece Mexican orchestra and is reaping the nickels every night from the young Mexican boys and girls of the neighborhood.

### Hogwallow Locals

BY DUNK BOTS.



It's no trouble to find any number of violations of the county road. Headlights of all degrees of illegality, even in the case of the most recent models, are to be seen. Some who have lights they think comply with the law (leaves with parallel lines running across them) may be seen driving with the lenses slipping around at various angles; others may be seen with unblacked headlights, others with the plain glaring light that blinds everybody within a thousand yards. Once in a while a car is encountered with lights that really show an inclination on the part of the owner to comply with the law and its intent, but these are few. To the casual observer it would appear that most people are bent upon seeing what they can "get by with" and escape arrest.

A had conscience is a poor thing to go to sleep with in the dark. A clear conscience is a good companion anywhere any time.

I believe the law of compensation has been violated in the theatrical world by the comedians and the comedienne, for he or she who makes people laugh is entitled to more consideration, I believe, than he or she who makes them cry. The latter have been compensated by the public life; the former have gone into pictures or retirement.

A sunflower is not as pretty as a daisy, but it covers so much unlighted space in the yard and it requires so little attention, I believe, it is a larger return for the labor expended than the cultured daisy. In this respect, people are much like the floral family.

There's one difference that is quite notable. People who send communications to the paper commending the government, always sign their names. The pro-German pacifists either have no names or are ashamed of them, for their screeds are always anonymous.

TOO BAD JURIES CAN'T KNOW SOME OF THE THINGS PEOPLE DO. BUT ARE PROHIBITED UNDER THE RULES OF EVIDENCE FROM PLACING BEFORE A JURY IN A TRIAL.

The Armandier boys are evidently

beginning to understand that law is made for observance.

Ever sit by a window thinking it was just feeling perfectly comfortable, then suddenly discover that it was closed and begin to perspire? IT CAN BE DONE.

It is nice to have one's tiny son follow dad's example, but when he carries it so far as to remove the grass cups from his car, it's a little more than a little annoying.

Some attorneys are rightfully called criminal lawyers.

By the way, what has become of the old fashion day practitioners who used to hang out a sign that conveyed the information that he was an "attorney and counselor at law"?

Our idea of a snail: Being a motorcycle cop and arresting snailmen inside the city limits instead of attending to the work on the country roads where the police can't do it.

The stingiest man in El Paso has been found. He runs a small store and sells drinks. He demonstrated with a trial of patrons the other evening, because two of them took two straws apiece for their ice cream sodas. He said one straw was enough for anybody.

Notwithstanding the friendly relations we are restoring with Mexico, there are a lot of El Pasoans who still prefer to remain on the side of the river and it is not altogether due to a fear of a bath as they return, either.

Women will be employed in the German's plant plant of the duPont Powder company. It is proposed to employ at least 200 women who will be placed in the cutting rooms where the work is light. A blouse uniform will be used by the women. The company will erect a large building to house the women as the women may live in comfort.

Mrs. Harry Atwater, a Chicago society woman, has opened a dining establishment in that city, due to the "dough" thing, worth while. She graduated in chemistry and it is now possible for her to make up eyes that do not fade.

## Uncle Wall's Denatured Poem.

### One Little Help

I BUY the helpful magazine, and read it by the evening lamp, and then attach a stamp that's green, a little sticky one cent stamp. I hand it to a postal clerk, and to some soldier it will go, and maybe cheer the hours that he, and he'll be the first to see the face. And thus, in diverse little ways, we can help the soldier, who'll spend their ardent, toilsome days far from home, in foreign lands. "Here is a magazine from home," a soldier cries, and wipes a tear; "some fellow with a thoughtful mind, in God's own country, sent it here." My aunt, whenever she has a chance, does Red Cross sewing with a bunch of kindly dames who used to prance to bridge whist game, pick tea or lunch. The hands that used to flash the cards now ply the needle and to, and reel off linen, yards and yards, which is a goodly thing to do. We all can help, if we'll try, if not in large ways, then in small, and comfort soldier boys who sigh where surgeons walk the whitewashed hall.

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WALT MASON

## A HANDY MAN AROUND THE HOUSE - BY BRIGGS

Abe Martin



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## WAR MAKERS SANS KHAKI

Howard Coffin, Airplane Maker.

BY DAVID M. CHURCH.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7.—Howard E. Coffin, who designed the first war airplane, when he conceived the modern biplane, was a civilian.

Today there is a modern biplane in the heart of Coffin, but beneath those looks there is a tremendous thinking force. He speaks with a slow sort of drawl that has a nasal twang and belies the activity which is back of the speech. He is known as a "real hard worker" because he never refuses to see any one, and he has perhaps made many friends in Washington through any other of the civilian war workers.

Work is recreation for Coffin, just as long as it is work connected with an engine. Production is his hobby. He has a mania for seeing long lines of machines turned out of a factory in a steady procession. To accomplish this rapid production he has gathered about him a staff of the best efficiency experts America affords.

Coffin is not a "solo" worker. He realized the value of the ideas and thoughts of others, hence he has built up a capable staff to furnish him with ideas, and he has called into consultation the best known fliers of the world to aid him in making America the premier flying nation.

Once in a while Howard E. Coffin feels that he needs some recreation, so he jumps into a motor car—his own make—and orders his chauffeur:

## Says Move To Repair Road To Deming Is Timely Fryer Says Objectionable Roadhouses Must Close

"T he proposition of the good roads committee of the chamber of commerce to consider the means of improving the road between here and Deming is certainly timely," said D. D. Rolles, "not only because the road is bad, but because conditions in Deming are going to result in more traffic. The present congestion of the railroad, due to the movement of troops and supplies, makes the improvement of the automobile road a practical necessity."

"It doesn't seem proper and fitting to me that our \$25,000 system of county roads be dotted with road houses where liquor is sold in violation of the law," said county attorney W. H. Fryer. "We ought to have palatial residences along these highways. I'm going to do my share towards riding the county of any objectionable roadhouses that may be found and thus make way for a more substantial class of buildings."

"Let her out, James." "The hum of a motor is the most restful music to my ears," said Coffin today.

This is the man who hopes to bring victory out of the air for the allies.

## Little Interviews

It occurs to us that a good many young men are too busy brushing their hair back to think about enlistment. Blessin's often come disguised, and not infrequently hard luck shows up lookin' like a million dollars.

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## Short Snatches From Everywhere

One thing may be said of the liquor trade, its patrons are usually willing to carry their own packages.—Pittsburgh Post.

Napoleon said that armies won wars on their stomachs, but the trouble is that very few wars are fought there.—Galveston News.

We have advanced Russia more than \$200,000,000. And Russia has done about as much for us in fighting.—Austin Statesman.

A mass meeting held at St. Louis, in opposition to the United States war plans, and on its program L. M. Keck, by former professor of political science of the University of Texas. He is no longer in the service of the state of Texas and must not refer to Texas for reference.—Temple Telegram.

"After experiencing the thrill of having one's ship chased by a submarine which fired a torpedo at us but missed, I reached London. Three hours after the ship was attacked, we sank another boat in the same lane where she had tried to 'get us.'"

Writing from London, Raymond, a newspaper correspondent, gave a graphic description of his voyage from New York to London. He was stationed in El Paso last summer. "There was a raid on the southern coast of France, the other night," Miller wrote, "and when the warning came we were rounded. I beat a hasty retreat with other Londoners. By the time the alarm was given, 25 persons killed and many injured in the raid. I expect to leave for Paris and the French front soon."

## LETTERS TO THE HERALD

(All communications must bear the signature of the writer, but the name will be withheld if requested.)

### DON'T NEED STATE AID.

Hartley, Texas, Sept. 6.

Editor El Paso Herald: Referring to the recommendation of Gov. Ferguson to the house of representatives for aid to the farmers of west Texas, on account of the drought of the past season, I would say that there is no one in Hartley county who will ask or needs aid from the state or county or federal government. We have an average crop, plenty of grass and our farmers are all in good spirits and planning and seeding extensively next year, and we are able to use and assist several more families to happy homes.

The writer has traveled over Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Crosby, Lubbock, Breckenridge, Garza, Deaf Smith and Bailey counties and the part of the west will have an average crop and banks of the counties above mentioned will be amply able to care for the needs of their people.

L. R. Cox, Secretary Hartley Commercial Club.

### KERMEEN RELEASED, GOES HOME WITH MOTHER TO DIE

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 6.

Kermeen has been liberated from the state penitentiary at Florence, to which he had been committed for education, the sentence later commuted to life imprisonment. On recommendation of the board of pardons and parole, Governor Campbell had given the man parole, on affirmation by prison physician G. F. Huffman that he had only a few days to live due to the ravages of pulmonary tuberculosis. At the gate of the prison he was met by his mother, Mrs. J. J. Kermeen, of Las Vegas, Nev., officially made his keeper, so to speak, of the condition of the patient, who is to be returned to prison in the event of recovery.

Another parole issued is in favor of H. H. Fugus, who is serving an 18 month sentence for bootlegging, as inmate of the Maricopa county jail. He is a wealthy man, who claims to have misinterpreted the law. He has been given 60 days in which to gather a crop, when he must return to jail.

Heavy motor trucks being used in the desert regions of northern Arizona to transport children and old persons from the areas where misery reigns are being driven by South coast girls.

### LIQUOR DECREASES EFFICIENCY.

Editor El Paso Herald:

Our watchword just now seems to be "efficiency." Everything that does not conduce to the end is conscientiously discarded. El Pasoans are always interested in mines and minerals, and want to know how to increase efficiency in mines—coal mines, this time.

W. B. Reed, chief accountant of the White Oak Coal company, of McDonald, W. Va., has published a statement showing the coal mined by his company before and after prohibition was established in his state on June 20, 1917. For three months previous to that date these mines produced 25,415 tons. During the next three months the amount was reduced to 12,191 tons. This shows the average efficiency of each man was almost doubled.

Could we double the efficiency in every man's work if liquor was eliminated from the nation?

When liquor robs our nation of half its efficiency, just at the time when it is straining every nerve to be as efficient as possible, if it also buys up the souls and bodies of our noblest sons, of what use is it anyway? Why don't we get rid of so harmful a nuisance, and that at once? S. H. J.

### TWO MEN ARE HURT IN STRUGGLE WITH BEAR

El Paso, Minn., Sept. 7.—Two men

are in a hospital here, one so seriously injured that he may die, as the result of an encounter with a bear at a local park late yesterday.

Joseph Rothwell, an iron bridge tanner, was passing through the park when his hat was blown into the cage where a large bear was kept. Knowing the condition of the patient, who is to be returned to prison in the event of recovery.

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Heavy motor trucks being used in the desert regions of northern Arizona to transport children and old persons from the areas where misery reigns are being driven by South coast girls.

Mrs. Catherine J. Wester of Tennessee gave up a lucrative position as architect to accept an appointment as a chief yeoman in the United States army.

## EL PASO HERALD

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H. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 19 years. J. W. Mason and G. A. Martin are News Editors.

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